

Carlisle Conservation Commission

Minutes

2/09/12

revised 3/13/12

Chair Peter Burn opened the meeting at 7:40 PM. In addition to Burn, members Luke Ascolillo, Tom Brown, Tom Brownrigg, Jenifer Bush, Kelly Guarino and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard were present.

7:40 – 7:50 PM General Agenda Items, New/Pending or Old Business

Willard requested that the following be added to the agenda: (1) New well at Foss Farm gardens (2) Riverfest schedule.

Minutes of 1/12/12 and 1/26/12 – After discussion, Brown moved to accept the minutes of 1/12/12 as revised. Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor. Brown then moved to accept the minutes of 1/26/12 as revised, Bush seconded, and all voted in favor.

Warrant Article approval: Mark and Rachel Page Elliott River Preserve – The commission discussed a draft warrant article written by Sudbury Valley Trustees for the transfer of money from Community Preservation Act funds for a conservation restriction on Lot 6 and Parcel C of the Elliott property; the amount requested is \$150,000. Ascolillo, also chair of the Community Preservation Committee, stated that there would be a second warrant article related to the acquisition of the conservation restriction, which would be held by the Town of Carlisle. The warrant article has not been reviewed by Town Counsel. After discussion, Guarino moved to accept the process described in the warrant article, but not the specific wording. Ascolillo seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Enforcement Order: 100 Aldershot Ln. for work on Mannis Conservation Lands – Willard had previously distributed a draft restoration plan for unpermitted work on the Mannis Lands. After discussion, Ascolillo moved to issue a “friendly” Enforcement Order, Bush seconded, and all voted in favor.

7:50 – 8:00 PM 24 Bingham Rd., proposed plan change to DOA-292

Peter Lavenson of New England Sunrooms was present for the discussion. The Building Inspector, after examining the existing deck, determined that two concrete piers are needed to provide additional support for the sunroom. The supports would be helical steel piers, if possible, although if these were difficult to install, concrete sonotubes would be used. Lavenson is required to provide a stamped letter from a registered engineer stating that the proposed piers will provide adequate support. Lavenson marked the locations of the piers on the plan, and said that he will send a copy of the letter to Willard. Brown moved to amend the plan as revised by Lavenson, Guarino seconded, and all voted in favor.

8:00 – 8:10 PM Notice of Intent, Continued Hearing. Applicant: Romie Taylor; Project Location: 125 Bellows Hill Rd.; Project Description: replacement of a failed soil absorption system with work within the 100 ft. Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Mike DiModica was present for the hearing. He stated that the wetlands have been flagged by a botanist. The Board of Health (BOH) is concerned that the property will be sold and that the buyers might want a third bedroom, which would require a larger soil absorption system. The larger system requires an additional 600 sq. ft. of leaching area, with an additional 24 ft. to be added to the currently planned (rectangular) area. DiModica said that the revised plan is agreeable to the BOH. Willard stated that ConsCom requires a stamped plan prior to issuance of a permit, so the hearing was continued until Feb. 23.

8:10 – 8:15 PM General Agenda Items, New/Pending or Old Business, continued

Riverfest – Willard reported that Riverfest will be held June 23 & 24. Ken Harte has again agreed to lead a canoe trip on the Concord River from Carlisle to Billerica, with breakfast at the Riverview Restaurant. Guarino thanked Harte for organizing the event.

Conservationist of the Year Award – Willard noted that Phyllis Hughes, the artist for the Conservationist Award certificates in the past, has moved out of town, and ConsCom might need to find another artist to make the certificate. Carlisle Mosquito reporter Sally Zielinsky was present at the meeting, and said that Mrs. Hughes would probably be willing to be the artist.

8:15 – 8:25 PM Notice of Intent, Continued Hearing. Applicant: Constance Wright; Project Location: 56 Peter Hans Rd.; Project Description: installation of a subsurface sewage disposal system and associated grading.

Representative Kevin Ritchie of Civil Solutions was present for the discussion. Mrs. Wright and another woman (not identified) arrived soon after the hearing was closed. Brownrigg, being a friend of the applicant, recused himself from the hearing. Ritchie stated that the proposed leaching field will be 50 ft. from the wetlands, with a retaining wall along Peter Hans Rd. The BOH approved the plan at their last meeting, and Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program had no objections to the proposed work. There being no further questions, Brown moved to close the public hearing, Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor, except for Brownrigg, who abstained. Ascolillo moved to issue a Standard Order of Conditions, Brown seconded, and all voted in favor except Brownrigg, who abstained.

8:25 – 8:30 PM General Agenda Items, New/Pending or Old Business, continued

FY 2013 Budget – Willard distributed the final budget, and said that if there were any changes, it would be necessary to discuss these with the Finance Committee on Feb. 13, at 7:15 PM. Willard said that the Fire Chief is requiring a fire alarm system in the Cranberry Bog House that includes inspections previously thought to be annual inspections at \$500/year; however, she recently learned that the cost would be around \$500/quarter. Burn said that since it was not clear whose budget, ConsCom's or the town's, the inspection would impact, that he thought the

proposed budget be submitted as written. Willard said that the costs are too undetermined right now, but will keep the finance committee and the Town Administrator informed of the issue.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) report – Ascolillo, chair of the CPC, stated that the Housing Authority submitted an application requesting CPA funds for engineering studies for potential placement of affordable housing on the Conant Land and Town Forest and a parcel they identify as the Cranberry Bog. Their application to CPC does not state that they have discussed this proposal with ConsCom. At the next CPC meeting on Feb. 15, Ascolillo will suggest that the Housing Authority schedule a meeting with ConsCom before submitting a request for CPA funds. Burn will invite the Housing Authority to attend the Feb. 23 meeting for a discussion.

8:30 – 8:45 PM Notice of Intent. Applicant: Matthew Herweck; Project Location: Hanover Hill, Lots 9 & 10; Project Description: development of two combined lots, with work including portions of a driveway, pool, grading, infiltration trench, and utilities associated with a proposed single-family dwelling and other activities consistent with establishing a small farm.

George Dimakarakos of Stamsky & McNary and Mr. and Mrs. Herweck were present for discussion. Dimakarakos explained that two lots will be combined to a single lot of ~10 ¼ acres, with the intention of having a small farm. The plan of work will result in less disturbance than originally anticipated, since there will be a single private driveway instead of a common driveway for two lots. The wetlands have been reflagged by B&C Associates. At the time of the meeting, DEP had not issued a file number; also, a portion of the lot is Priority Habitat, and no input has been received from Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.

Willard asked the applicants whether they planned to have farm animals housed in the barn, and they said they do not expect to have farm animals. Brownrigg asked about an area near the proposed driveway called “existing wildlife habitat augmentation area”. Dimakarakos explained that this area was designed to provide additional habitat for vernal pool animals, and consisted of leaf litter and logs. Brownrigg said that the boundaries of the potential pool were not clear on the reduced-scale plan; Dimakarakos indicated the boundaries on a larger plan. Brownrigg asked whether the boundary with a conservation restriction on the north side of the lot is marked, and Dimakarakos said that it is not. Brownrigg suggested a line of boulders, but others suggested that the grantee, CCF, be consulted regarding boundary markers. Burn suggested that the applicants consider using organic gardening methods for their proposed orchard and tree farm, and Mr. Herweck said that he plans to do so.

Dimarkarakos said that they plan to drill a water supply well soon after a permit has been issued, and prior to the applicants’ purchase of the land. The hearing was continued until Feb. 23 at 8:45 PM.

8:45 – 9:30 PM Foss Farm Community Gardens: proposed change to existing garden rules, open meeting discussion with community gardeners.

Several gardeners were present to discuss a proposed change of rules that that would allow two people from different households to share a plot. There was also discussion of people outside the

household helping tend plots. Melinda Howe said that they have two plots and would like help with watering, etc. She liked the proposed change, and noted that, in her check of other town garden rules, no towns had restrictions on help with plots. She also felt that shared plots be extended to two plots, the same privilege extended to a single household. She asked that the rules be made more flexible so that more people who did not want to garden an entire plot could do so. Susan Mills and Helen Lyons said that they have shared a plot with a third person, and asked why the number of people sharing a plot is limited to two. Garden Manager Jack O'Connor said that he was concerned about the number of people bringing cars to the gardens. He said that others can help as long as the primary person is seen tending the plot.

Lynn Knight stated that there are two issues: (1) can more than two people (from different households) use a plot and (2) can someone from outside the household help tend a plot. Lee Tatistcheff agreed with allowing more than two people to share a plot. Melinda Howe and Lynn Knight said that other towns use the term "household" but have no restrictions on using helpers. At the end of the discussion, Assistant Manager Carol Foster asked that the commission vote on the proposed rule change. Burn stated that the term "household" is not well defined, and that it would be better to take the inputs provided at the meeting to see if more revisions are needed before adopting the rules.

After discussion of rules, Assistant Manager Ed Humm requested that one of the wells scheduled for repair be moved so that it is equidistant from two other wells. O'Connor was in agreement, and said that he had received a bid (\$1300) to drill a new well and decommission the old well. Guarino moved to accept the bid, Bush seconded, and all voted in favor.

9:30 – 10:00 PM General Agenda Items, New/Pending or Old Business, continued

Lynn Knight: Cisma Pulling Together Initiative Grant – Lynn Knight of the Land Stewardship Committee reported that Cisma (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) had won a grant from the National Wildlife Foundation to control invasive plants at Ben's Woods and at Foss Farm. Amber Carr of US Fish & Wildlife Service will coordinate the grant and work with Cisma partners. New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS) will write a management plan for each site. For Ben's Woods (owned by CCF with a conservation restriction held by the Town), the focus will be removing porcelain berry, which is covering a small field. At Foss Farm, it is planned that glossy buckthorn, multiflora rose, and oriental bittersweet will be cut and the stems painted with herbicide. Knight said that it would probably be about one month before the invasive plant management plan is ready.

Knight said that Cisma will have a meeting at the Assabet NWR on March 13, 2012 that will include a panel discussion on control of invasive plants, including use of herbicides. The panel discussion will be videotaped and will be available on the Cisma website. Burn suggested having a discussion of herbicides at an upcoming ConsCom meeting, at which someone with expertise on herbicides would be present to answer questions.

Carlisle Mosquito reporter Sally Zielinski related that NEWFS has used herbicides to remove invasive plants near a rare plant in Concord. The procedure involved applying herbicide to the

cut stems and leaves of buckthorn. Zielinski said that the treatment has been very effective and has not affected the rare plant.

Sugar Maples at Towle Field – Willard said that she has sent a letter to Gaining Ground regarding their permit to tap sugar maples at Towle Field, but has not heard back.

Boardwalk at Cranberry Bog – Debby Geltner of the Land Stewardship Committee discovered a make-shift boardwalk at the Cranberry Bog that spans a gap in the north dike. Burn asked if the town would be liable for injuries caused by the boardwalk, and Guarino suggested that a sign be installed saying that people should use the boardwalk at their own risk.

At 10 PM, Guarino moved to adjourn the meeting, Brownrigg seconded, and all voted in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom Brownrigg.

Minutes accepted 4/12/12.

